

March 28, 2001

1039 '01 APR -4 A10:54

FDA Commissioner  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fisher's Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00N-1396, and 00D-1598

Dear FDA,

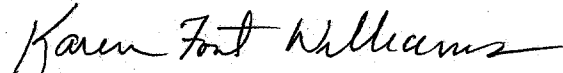
I am disturbed and angered by the ineffectual and dangerous FDA policies regarding the labeling of genetically modified (GM) foods. I believe that voluntary labeling is equivalent to the intentional withholding of food safety information from the public. As a consumer, I refuse to accept this immoral compromise. I strongly support the mandatory labeling of GM foods for the following reasons:

- The effects of GM food on human health (e.g. allergic reactions) and the environment are unknown. Even the insufficient testing completed has been funded by the industries that make the GM products or manipulated by Monsanto employees temporarily posted in FDA positions. We don't understand the potential effects of cross-pollination or the long-term consequences of weeds and insects that become increasingly resistant to pesticide-producing plants.
- Voluntary labeling places an unfair burden on small and organic farmers. These producers are already at a huge disadvantage because of their scale and greater costs of labor intensive, but sustainable, practices. Monsanto has demonstrated that they will attempt to sue those producers who voluntarily label their products "rBGH-free." We cannot and should not expect the average small producer to expose him or herself to lawsuits.

Placing the responsibility for labeling on the organic producers and allowing GM foods to go undetected is an obvious capitulation to agribusiness and Monsanto at the expense of public health. Consumers, such as myself, will begin to assume (with justification) that all products not labeled "organic" contain GM foods. Steadily increasing demand for organic foods and imminent mandatory labeling of GM foods in other industrialized nations (Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Korea) demonstrates the public's growing awareness and their concerns with food safety and origin.

I demand accountability from the FDA in requiring that GM foods be clearly labeled. I would also like a response to my letter so I know that my views were considered. Thank you.

Sincerely,



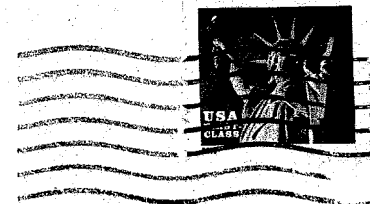
Karen Font Williams  
5659 SW Texas St.  
Portland, Oregon 97219

cc: Congressman David Wu  
Senator Ron Wyden  
Senator Gordon Smith

00N-1396

C 4433

Karen Williams  
5659 SW Texas St.  
Portland, OR 97219



FDA Commissioner  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852  
RE: Docket No: OON-1396 and OOD-1598